

Dimensions of the type (measured on the spirit-specimen before skinning):—

Head and body 134 mm.; tail 116; hind foot 28; ear 19.

Skull: greatest length 36.4; condylo-incisive length 34; nasals 14.6; interorbital breadth 5; breadth of brain-case 15.2; palatal foramina 7.5×3 ; length of bullæ 6.7; upper molar series 5.1.

Hab. Pearson's Islands, Investigator Group, S. Australia.

Type. Adult male (skinned from spirit). B.M. no. 23. 3. 28. 6. Collected by Prof. F. Wood Jones. Six specimens, all males.

This distinct species is readily recognizable by its pale colour, shortened tail, large bullæ, and, most of all, by its unusually small teeth.

LXV.—*New Subspecies of Metachirus.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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Metachirus opossum melantho, subsp. n.

A heavily blackened form from Colombia.

Upper surface deep blackish, absolutely black on the head, lightened on the body by silvery-grey tickings, but throughout darker than in other subspecies, the black not so restricted to the spine as to form a marked dorsal line. Under surface strongly contrasted buffy whitish, the hairs on chin, chest, and inguinal region buffy to their bases, those on neck and belly broadly slaty proximally except just along the exact centre line. Face black, supraocular spots very small, only about 7 mm. in diameter, and 11 mm. from each other; postauricular light spots scarcely perceptible. Front of forearms and hips very strongly contrasted whitish, the line of demarcation from the general dark colour sharply marked. Hands and feet with dark metapodials and sharply contrasted white toes. About one-quarter of the scaly part of tail white.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 250 mm.; tail 280, its scaly part 230, its white tip 60; hind foot 40; ear 30.

Skull: condylo-basal length 66; combined length of ms^{1-3} 12.

Hab. Western Colombia, Chaco region. *Type* from Condoto, 300'.

Type. Young adult male. B.M. no. 14. 5. 28. 30. Original number 343. Collected 1st February, 1914, and presented by Dr. H. G. F. Spurrell. One specimen.

This is a very strongly contrasted black and white form, no doubt most nearly allied to Osgood's *Metachirus andersoni** (or, as I should prefer to call it, *M. opossum andersoni*) of Yurimaguas, N. Peru, but differs by its more uniformly blackish back, without development of a dorsal line, its less wholly clear buffy under surface, its smaller supraocular spots, and its contrasted whitish front surfaces of the forearms and hips.

Metachirus opossum nigratus, subsp. n.

A large blackish form with dark under surface.

General upper coloration about as in *andersoni*, the ground-colour dark with a black dorsal line, narrow on the nape, broad on the back. Under surface dull muddy greyish brown, with a small patch only on the chest buffy to the bases of the hairs. Crown and muzzle black. Supraocular spots of the usual large size, 12–14 mm. in diameter and about 7 mm. from each other. Postauricular whitish spots small, but more evident than in *melantho*. Arms dull greyish, like sides, their front surfaces scarcely lighter; hands and feet black to the metapodials, the digits brownish white. Tail with about one-fifth of its scaly part white.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 265 mm.; tail 275, its scaly portion 240, its white end 40 mm.; hind foot 40; ear 35.

Skull: condylo-basal length 69; combined length of ms^{1-3} 12. Another skull from Chanchamayo is no less than 81 mm. in condylo-basal length.

Hab. Middle Peru. *Type* from Utcuyaco, Dept. Junin, 1600 m.; another skin and a separate skull from Chanchamayo.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 0. 7. 7. 62. Original number 947. Collected 21st April, 1900, by P. O. Simons. Presented by Oldfield Thomas.

This is also a dark form related to Osgood's *andersoni*, but differs by its muddy-coloured instead of buffy under surface, darker digits, and shorter white tail-tip.

* Field Mus. Publ. No. 168, p. 95 (1913).

Metachirus opossum azaricus, subsp. n.

A uniform grey subspecies without blackened crown.

Size rather smaller than in other subspecies. General colour above uniform mouse-grey without median dorsal darker line, the sides scarcely lighter than the back. Under surface buffy throughout, of greater or lesser intensity. Crown only faintly darker than the back, not definitely blackened as it is in most of the allied forms. Eyes, however, surrounded by black as usual. Supraocular spots fairly large, but not very sharply defined; their diameter about 12 mm., the space between them too vaguely defined for exact measurement, but somewhere about 9 mm. broad. Arms and legs grey, paler than the body. Hands and feet dull whitish. Tail with about half the scaly portion white.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 277 mm.; tail 295; hind foot 35; ear 36.

Skull: condylo-basal length 65; ms^{1-3} 10.2.

Hab. Paraguay. Type from Sapucay.

Type. Old female. B.M. no. 3. 2. 3. 36. Original number 820. Collected 8th August, 1892, by W. Foster. Eight specimens.

By its smaller size and unblackened crown this Opossum is readily distinguished from the other subspecies of *M. opossum*, although the black crown is not always very strongly developed in the Brazilian *M. o. quica*.

I cannot refrain from naming it in honour of the famous Paraguayan naturalist Azara, as the animal I previously named after him, *Pseudalopex azarica*, suffered a nomenclatural mishap, as was also the case with the well-known *Didelphis azaræ*, whose name proved to be antedated by the ugly term *D. paraguayensis*, Oken.

Another name of Oken's, *Didelphis austro-americana**, belonging to the present group, should be considered as a synonym of *D. opossum*, L., as its basis is the same as that of *opossum*, and, now that the latter name has been restricted to the Surinam animal, *austro-americana* should follow it as a synonym, leaving *quica* available for the Brazilian subspecies.

Metachirus opossum crucialis, subsp. n.

A pale grey form without median dorsal line.

General colour pale mouse-grey, though the type may be a little faded. Median area of back not darker, so that the

* Lehrb. Nat. iii., Zool. ii. p. 1148 (1816).

whole upper surface is uniform grey. Under surface white, not very sharply defined, the hairs white to their roots, except just on the sides of the belly. Crown and muzzle scarcely darker than back; supraocular patches very large, about 13 mm. in greatest diameter, and only about 3 mm. from each other, the separating line being quite narrow. Arms and legs grey like body; hands and feet whitish. Tail with its white end about one-third of its scaly portion.

Dimensions of the type (measured on a re-made skin):—

Head and body 255 mm.; tail 260, its scaly part 200, its white tip 70; hind foot 38.

Skull: condylo-basal length 58.5; ms^{1-3} 10.3.

Hab. Central Bolivia. Type from Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 47. 11. 22. 15. Collected by Mr. Thomas Bridges.

Evidently most nearly allied to the Paraguayan form, but distinguishable by its greyer colour (even if somewhat faded), the larger supraocular patches with unusually narrow division between them, the whiter under surface, and shorter white tail-tip.

Metachirus nudicaudatus imbutus, subsp. n.

Most nearly allied to *M. n. phæurus*, with which it agrees in the reduction of the white on the tail, but the body—and especially the flanks—strongly suffused with ochraceous, in this respect closely matching the more northern *M. n. colombianus*, Allen. Back darker along the middle line, but without a definite stripe. Under surface dull whitish from chest to anus, the throat and bands along sides of belly clear ochraceous. Crown and centre of nape black. Supraocular spots small, ochraceous. A well-marked ochraceous patch behind the base of the ear. Line from eye to ear blackish. Cheeks dull ochraceous. Forearms and legs grey; metapodials dark brown, digits whitish. Tail on the upper side dull brown nearly to the tip, below dull brownish white.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 238 mm.; tail 259; hind foot 39; ear 29.

Length of lower jaw 40.5.

Hab. Mindo, Ecuador. 4200'.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 13. 10. 24. 71. Original number 183. Collected 12th June, 1913, by Gilbert Hammond. Presented by Oldfield Thomas. One specimen.

M. n. phæurus is the form characteristic of the humid western lowlands of Ecuador, and has a remarkably dull

brownish general colour, in addition to the reduction or absence of the white on the tail. The present form, coming from the higher ground towards the Andes, agrees with it in the latter character, but the body-colour is practically as bright and rich as in *colombianus* to the north or *tsehudii* from further south in Peru.

Metachirus nudicaudatus infuscus, subsp. n.

Most nearly related to *M. n. bolivianus*, Allen, with which it shares the blackish dorsal line, but the general colour is very much darker, darker in fact than in any other subspecies of *M. nudicaudatus*. While the sides of the back, outside the blackish median area, are in *bolivianus* buffy greyish, they are here approximately "mummy-brown," succeeded below by dull tawny on the flanks. Under surface buffy, strongest on the throat and edges of the belly. Cheeks and supraocular spots ochraceous, the dark line between eye and ear fairly well marked. Hands and feet dark brown, the digits scarcely paler. Tail brown with about 3 inches at the end white, the junction of the two colours quite irregular.

Dimensions of the type (measured on the skin):—

Head and body 240 mm.; tail 260; hind foot 38.

Skull: condylo-basal length 50; ms^{1-3} 8.6.

Hab. Inambari River, Peru.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 2. 7. 27. 8. Collected by G. Ockenden. One specimen.

Distinguished from *bolivianus* by its much darker general colour, browner feet, and the lesser extension of white on the tail. The size of the single skull is also less than is usual in the group.

Metachirus nudicaudatus modestus, subsp. n.

A dull greyish race almost without the rufous or fulvous tones found in other subspecies.

General colour above drab-grey, without darker median line on the back, and with scarcely any fulvous suffusion. Flanks slightly more fulvous, but far less so than in the Brazilian *M. n. myosuros*. Under surface uniform buffy, the hairs buffy to the roots. Throat but slightly more ochraceous. Supraocular spots sharply defined, nearly white. Cheeks buffy. Crown strongly black, and the line between eye and ear also black. Hands brown to the metapodials; fingers and whole of hind feet whitish. Tail nearly all white, the basal four inches only irregularly brown above.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 255 mm.; tail 315; hind foot 40; ear 37.

Skull: condylo-basal length 56; ms^{1-3} 9.5.

Hab. Paraguay ; type from Sapucay.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 3. 2. 3. 38. Original number 850. Collected 2nd September, 1902, by W. Foster. Three specimens, adult and two young.

This Opossum is most nearly allied to the Brazilian *M. n. myosuros*, but is distinguishable by its more uniform greyish colour, without the usual ochraceous suffusion, which is especially marked on the flanks of the Brazilian form.

The young specimens, each about four inches in length, agree closely in colour with the adult, except that, as is not unusual in the young, there is more indication of a darker dorsal line.

LXVI.—*Two new Guenons from the Ivory Coast, West Africa.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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JUST as the Squirrels obtained by Mr. Willoughby Lowe in the Ivory Coast Protectorate represented local races of previously-known Gold Coast and Sierra Leone forms, so his Monkeys prove on comparison to be distinguishable as local subspecies from their nearest allies.

Cercopithecus büttikoferi pygrius, subsp. n.

General characters as in true *büttikoferi*, but lighter throughout, with light greyish sides to the rump.

Dorsal colour more yellowish than in *büttikoferi*, less tawny ; narrowed on the rump, where it is banded on each side by a sharply-defined zone of pale grey, continuous with the white underside of the tail. Under surface more prominently white. Colour of head as in *büttikoferi*, though the light rings of the hairs are a little paler. Arms grizzled slaty, darkening to black on to hands, without the strong fulvous suffusion found in *büttikoferi*. Hind limbs similarly greyer and less buffy, the backs of the hams whiter. Tail rather paler than in *büttikoferi*.

Dimensions of type :—

Head and body 525 mm. ; tail 788 ; hind foot 150 ; ear 28.

Skull : upper cheek-tooth series 24·5.

Hab. Bandama, Central Ivory Coast Protectorate.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 23. 2. 3. 1. Original number 2069. Collected 3rd January, 1923, by Messrs. Lowe and Hardy. One specimen.